

**BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550**

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: December 14, 2005
)	
Deborah Cooper)	DOCKET NO.: 05F-071
Program Manager (Former))	
Office of the Chief Technology Officer)	
286 M Street, SW)	
Washington, DC 20024)	

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of the General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information and Records Management Division, that pursuant to D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), Deborah Cooper, Program Manager (Former), Office of the Chief Technology Officer, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2004, on or before May 16, 2005, as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02, and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 13, 2005.

By Notices of Hearing, Statements of Violations and Orders of Appearance dated September 14, 2005 and September 27, 2005, OCF ordered Deborah Cooper (hereinafter respondent), to appear at scheduled hearings on September 26, 2005 and October 14, 2005, and show cause why she should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) for calendar year 2004, on or before June 13, 2005.

On October 3, 2005, the respondent contacted the Hearing Officer to advise that she was involuntarily separated from the District Government in May 2005, and that she believed she was not required to file. The Hearing Officer explained the applicability of the filing requirement to the respondent, who stated she would appear at the scheduled hearing. On October 14, 2005, the respondent appeared at the rescheduled hearing

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and testified that she separated from government service on May 3, 2005. Respondent further stated that she was not afforded an exit interview, and that she was not informed of the requirement to file a final FDS with OCF. Respondent confirmed that she was a member of the Management Supervisory Service. Respondent filed the required report at the conclusion of the hearing.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent was a member of the Management Supervisory Service.
2. Respondent timely filed the Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2003 on May 10, 2004.
3. Respondent separated from government service in May 2005.
4. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2004, on or before June 13, 2005.
5. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement on October 14, 2005.
6. Respondent has no history of prior filing delinquencies.
7. Respondent provided a credible explanation for the filing delinquency because she believed she was not informed of the requirement to file a final Financial Disclosure Statement upon separation from government service.
8. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.

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3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for the filing delinquency, in that she believed she was not informed of the requirement to file a final FDS upon separation from government service, coupled with a favorable filing history, constitute good cause for suspension of the fine.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

Date

Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

Date

Kathy S. Williams
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order on Deborah Cooper, by regular mail, on December 14, 2005.

cc: Suzanne J. Peck, Chief Technology Officer
Office of the Chief Technology Officer
441 – 4th Street, NW
Suite 930-S
Washington, DC 20001

Andrea Robinson, HR Advisor
Office of the Chief Technology Officer
441 – 4th Street, NW
Suite 930-S
Washington, DC 20001

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.